



Borough of Kendal.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937.

KENDAL:

TITUS WILSON AND SON, LTD., PRINTERS, KENDAL.

1938.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29527326>



Borough of Kendal.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937.

KENDAL :

TITUS WILSON AND SON, LTD., PRINTERS, KENDAL.

1938.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1937.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year and is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health's communication of October, 1937.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Laboratory arrangements, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres, the general details have been omitted.

The proper provision of accommodation for the isolation and nursing of infectious diseases on modern lines has been under the consideration of the County Council for some time past, but no decision has yet been reached.

Considerable important legislation has come into force during the year, notably the Midwives' Act and Public Health Act, both of which received the Royal Assent in the previous year.

The administration of the Midwives' Act is in the hands of the County Council.

The Public Health Act which has long been overdue replaces the 1875 and Amending Acts, and clarifies the general administration regarding the Health Services.

The Education Act of 1936 provides for the raising of the School Age from 14 to 15 years.

During the year, the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act was passed and provides regulations for safety in connection with disinfestation.

The Local Government Superannuation Act brings all Local Authorities into line with regard to the superannuation of officials; in times past there is no doubt that Authorities who had adopted the Act of 1922 were in a position to make more attractive offers of employment to Officers than those who had not adopted the Act.

I am indebted to your Officials for much help and advice on many occasions, and especially to the loyal co-operation of your Sanitary Inspectors.

The Medical Profession has been ever ready to place its services at my disposal, and I am grateful to its members for their courtesy which makes for harmony and efficiency.

To one and all I tend my sincerest thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

3rd May, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

NAME.	QUALIFICATIONS.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts
G. Jackson	M.R. San. I.	Sanitary Inspector	Whole	—
B. Rigg	A.R. San. I.	Additional San. Inspector	Whole	—
J. H. Major A. J. Birkett	A.R. San. I.	Assistant San. Inspectors	Whole	—
E. E. Petersen	C.M.B. Queen's Cert., Cert. in General Training and Cert. for Health Visitors	School Nurse	Whole for 6 months	—
E. Metcalfe	S.R.N. Health Visitor. R. San. I. New Health Cert.	Health Visitor	Part	School Nurse
W. E. Henderson	M.B., etc., D.P.H.	School Medical Officer	Part	County M.O.H. and School Medical Officer
G. German	M.Inst.M. & Cy.E.	Surveyor	Part	Borough Surveyor
T. Crowdy	M.I.Mech.E., F.C.S., F.R.Met.Soc., F.F.Sc. (London)	Water Engineer	Part	Gas Engineer
W. H. Roberts	M.Sc., F.I.C.	Public Analyst	Part	—
J. Wright	L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.	Ophthalmic Surgeon to Education Committee	Part	Assistant to County M.O.H.
J. Irvine	L.D.S.	School Dentist	Part	County School Dentist

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

Area (acres)	3,691
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1937.. .. .	17,450
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) accord- ing to Rate Books	5,126
Rateable Value	£126,201
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£473

Kendal is a market town serving an agricultural area within a radius of eight miles. In addition, there are a number of industries which afford occupation to the inhabitants, and the chief of which are:—

Boot and Shoe Manufactory.
Carpet Mills.
Engineering Works.
Iron Foundries.
Hosiery Manufactories.
Tobacco Manufactories.
Breweries.
Laundering.
Horse Clothing.

None of these trades have any particular influence on Public Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate ..	224	115	109	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation, 14.3.
Illegitimate ..	25	13	12	
Birth Rate: England and Wales			..	14.9.
Still Births ..	12	7	5	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births, 46.
Deaths ..	238	96	142	

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,	13.6
Corrected Death Rate do. do. do.	12.6
Death Rate: England and Wales 	12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Rate per 1,000 total Deaths. (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis Nil.	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes 2 ..	7.7
Total 2 ..	7.7
Maternal Mortality Rate: England and Wales ..	3.1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births 	56
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	45
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	160
Infantile Death Rate: England and Wales 	58
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 	20
„ „ Measles (all ages) 	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 	1

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor beyond an epidemic of Influenza has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District; neither occupation nor environment has had any prejudicial effect on health.

The School Medical Officer does not consider that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of the children, nor is there any direct evidence that adults have been seriously effected from the same cause.

Deaths were registered from the following causes:—

DISEASE.	M.	F.	Total.
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Influenza	1	6	7
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	6	14
Other Tuberculous Disease	—	3	3
Cancer. Malignant Disease	8	12	20
Diabetes	2	6	8
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	12	12	24
Heart Disease	20	38	58
Aneurysm	3	—	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	10	14
Bronchitis	1	6	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	4	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	10	16
Other Puerperal Causes	—	2	2
Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Malformations, etc.	1	4	5
Senility	3	3	6
Suicide	5	—	5
Other Violence	3	4	7
Other Defined Diseases	7	7	14
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1	1

The total of Births and Deaths for any District is made up by taking the actual figures registered during the year less those whose place of residence was outside the District (out-transfers) plus those who, whilst living in another Area, had their usual place of residence within the District (in-transfers).

The Registrar-General furnishes all particulars of in-transfers in the case of deaths, but merely the number in the case of births.

Within the Borough 339 births were registered of which 108 were out-transfers, and there were 18 in-transfers, giving a total of 249.

Of the registered births 121 were notified by doctors, 104 by midwives, and 6 were not notified by either.

There were 297 deaths registered, of which 76 were out-transfers, and there were 17 in-transfers, making a total of 238.

The allocation by Wards is as follows:—

				Births, According to Register.		Deaths, Complete.
Castle	..	..	..	33	..	39
Far Cross	..	..	..	35	..	32
Fell	..	..	..	45	..	55
Highgate	..	..	..	65	..	39
Nether	..	..	..	28	..	44
Strickland	..	..	..	25	..	29
				—		—
				231	..	238
				—		—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change has been made in these facilities.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) Infectious cases Municipal Motor Ambulance.
 (b) Non-infectious cases do.

The Ambulance Service is very efficient and removed the following cases:—

Kendal infectious cases	..	..	..	..	21
Kendal non-infectious and maternity cases	..	..	..	..	206

Rural infectious cases	..	..	..	..	..	54
Rural non-infectious and maternity cases	..	..				122
						<hr/>
						403
						<hr/>
Number of miles run	..	..	..	..	..	5,240

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is no alteration in this service.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been established.

HOSPITALS.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The number of infants attending the Clinic has increased by 27, whilst that of children has decreased by 11, and the total attendances of mothers and children have risen by 654.

A most pleasing feature of the year's work is that the number of attendances by expectant mothers keeps up; this implies that such are beginning to understand the importance of Ante-natal supervision, and in quite a number of instances the discovery of what might have proved to be very serious has led to proper treatment, with either amelioration or disappearance of the trouble.

Another good feature is the large attendance of mothers when convalescent after childbirth; in these cases a little supervision is often helpful in assisting a return to normal.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Number of times the Centre has been open			52
„ babies under 1 year attending	150	}	256
„ children 1 to 5 years attending	..	..	106	
„ consultations for babies	1670	}
„ „ children	..	..	..	622
„ „ mothers	..	..	..	264
„ „ expectant mothers	..	..	..	295
„ „ post-natal mothers			..	73	

Average sessional attendances:--

For babies	32.1	} 56.1
„ children	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.9
„ mothers	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
„ expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.7
„ post-natal mothers	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.4

Number of Mothers admitted to Hospital under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act	25
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

SUMMARY OF NURSE METCALFE'S WORK:

First visits to babies under 1 year	203	} 3397
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	..	..	1281
Visits to children 1 to 5 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	1610
First visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	..	71
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	..	..	154
Still-birth enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	10
Infant death enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	10
Visits to Institutions	..	..	..	..	..	9
Attendance at Centre	..	..	..	..	..	49

SUMMARY OF NURSE HUGHES' WORK:

Visits to cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	57
--------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There has been an increase in the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, namely 14. Of these two occurred during the first day, and an addition of 3 during the first week. Of the causes of death 6 were registered as being due to Pneumonia; the general climatic condition existing during the year favoured pulmonary disease.

The Mother's Clinic has had 26 sessions only, and whilst it serves a useful purpose, it is apparently not found to be very necessary; there were only 12 new cases and total attendances were 38.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Prematurity	Congenital Diseases	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Marasmus	Total
4	1	1	6	2	14

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY

1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
5	—	—	—	5	3	3	1	2	14

RATEABLE VALUE OF HOUSES IN WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

Under £5	£5—£10	£10—£15	£15—£20	Over £20	Total
1	3	7	2	1	14

DEATHS BY WARDS.

Castle Ward	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fell Ward ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Highgate Ward	..	..	..	..	..	3
Strickland Ward	..	..	..	..	..	1
Far Cross Ward	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nether Ward	..	..	..	..	..	3
						—
						14
						—

CHILDREN'S ACT, 1908.

These duties are regularly carried out by the Health Visitor; the number under supervision has been 16.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The total rainfall at Fisher Tarn was 41.31 inches.

During the year the Corporation water main has been extended to Oxenholme and Helmside, and the houses there are now connected to the public supply.

There are 47 houses in the Borough which do not obtain their water supply from the Corporation mains. Of these, 11 obtain it from the Thirlmere pipe-line, and the remainder from pumps and other private sources.

Bolefoot tank was emptied twice during the year and thoroughly cleaned out and the walls cement-washed.

Mints Feet Well was weeded twice during the summer.

FISHER TARN. Weeding has again taken place during the year and 1,095 loads removed, and it is estimated that each load weights 11 cwt.

By-washing was taking place on January 1st and continued intermittently until March 6th, but did not again occur during the year. The lowest level reached was on November 30th, namely 10 feet 2½ inches, when 44,000,000 gallons were still available.

BIRDS PARK RESERVOIRS. These have been weeded and are in good condition.

Pumping was commenced from Mints Feet on December 7th and was continued till the end of the year.

All the runners and the catchment area are satisfactory.

The following is a summary of the monthly bacteriological examinations:—

Month.	Fisher Tarn. (B. Coli in c.c.'s)			Birds Park. (B. Coli in c.c.'s)		
January	—50	..	—10
February	—50	..	—50
March	—50	..	—50
April	—50	..	—50
May	—50	..	—50
June	—40	..	—50
July	—50	..	—10
August	—50	..	—50
September	—50	..	—10
October	—30	..	—20
November	—50	..	—30
December	—50	..	—50

— is absent.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year public sewers have been extended to Helmside, Oxenholme and Kentrigg.

At the end of the year there were 147 houses which did not discharge their drainage into the Corporation sewers. The majority of these houses are farms and houses in the outlying portions of the Borough where there is no sewer available.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution of the River Kent has been observed.

The effluent from the sewage disposal works has been satisfactory and no complaint has been made by the Rivers' Pollution Inspector.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Washdown and washout closets	..	..	5596
Trough closets	..	..	60
Privies	..	..	69
Pail closets	..	..	5
			—
			5730
			—
Privies converted during the year	..	..	2
Trough closets abolished	..	..	7

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There has been no change in the methods of the collection and disposal of refuse. Tipping by the "controlled" method has been continued at Cinder Ovens and the tip is rapidly filling up. Arrangements have been made for another tip on land near the Castle Grove estate.

The tendency for refuse to become lighter and bulkier in character still continues, and the Committee is considering a scheme for the salvaging of waste paper.

The following is a summary of the work done: —

			Horse.	S. & D.	Karrier.	Totals.	
No. of loads from ashbins	..	..	959	2233	1951	5143	
„	„	ashpits	..	142	—	52	194
„	„	trade refuse	..	244	—	261	505
„	„	slaughterhouse					
		garbage	..	164	—	—	164
			— —	—	—	—	—
			1509	2233	2264	6006	
			—	—	—	—	—
Cubic yards of refuse	..	..	3990	13410	11310	28710	
Tons of refuse (at 5 cwts. per yard)	..	..	998	3352	2828	7178	
Cost of removal per cubic yard	..	2/0.9		1/2.2	1/4.4	1/4.4	
Cost of removal per estimated ton	..	11/-		4/8.8	5/5.6	5/5.6	
Cost of disposal per estimated ton	..					1/10.8	
Cost of disposal per cubic yard	..					5.7d.	
Gross cost of removal	..	..	£413	£783	£764	£1960	
Gross cost of disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	£691
Total cost of removal and disposal	per ton			..	..	..	7/4.4
„	„	„	premises	..	..	..	9/1.7
„	„	„	1,000 population	..	..	..	£151
Number of premises from which refuse was removed	..	..					5796
Daily yield of refuse per 1,000 population (excluding trade refuse)	..	..	..	..	..	20.5 cwts.	
Number of ashpits in use at end of year	..	..	..	..	..	..	59

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the inspections made and the defects or nuisances discovered during the year:—

Inspections and re-inspections of dwellings	..	..	..	2155
„ of yards	..	..	..	469

Visits to slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	605
Inspections of offensive trades	..	..	..	..	..	..	169
„ common lodging houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
„ dairies and cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
„ stables and piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
„ refuse depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
„ ashpits	..	..	..	..	..	..	183
„ drainage works	..	..	..	..	..	..	393
„ works in progress	..	..	..	..	..	..	473
„ bakehouses and food premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
„ factories and workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	266
„ schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ made for food and drugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
„ „ „ defective spouts	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
„ „ „ tents, vans and sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
„ „ under Shops Act, 1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
„ „ „ Merchandise Marks Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Miscellaneous inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Enquiries into infectious disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Complaints received and enquired into	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Drains tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
„ examined	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
No. of visits made for “permitted number”	..	..	..	..	..	..	784
Visits in connection with disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	375
„ „ demolition	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Total							6929

Defects and nuisances discovered:—

Defective gullies	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
„ and choked drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
„ paving of yards	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Bedrooms insufficiently lighted and ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	..	133
Living rooms insufficiently lighted and ventilated	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
„ „ with low ceilings (less than 7 feet)	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Bedrooms with low ceilings (less than 7 feet)	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Houses overcrowded	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
„ with defective roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
„ „ „ floors	..	..	..	..	..	..	69
„ „ „ windows	..	..	..	..	..	..	89

Milk stools requiring cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cattle requiring cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dairy premises requiring cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	4
						—
				Total	..	1723
						—

181 preliminary notices and 47 statutory notices were served in connection with the above defects.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following offensive trades are established in the Borough:—

Fellmongers..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tallow Melters	..	..	..	..	..	1
Carcase Boilers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tripe Boilers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gut Scrapers	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	15

No serious nuisance has arisen at the tallow melting works in Beezon Road.

An application to extend the trade to a building adjoining the tallow melting works was granted.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There are no byelaws in force for the regulation of houses let in lodgings.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

8 visits of inspection were made in connection with tents, vans and sheds.

The Public Health Act, 1936, which contains important provisions as regards camping grounds, did not come into operation until October 1st (i.e. after the expiration of the camping season). Next year, however, more stringent regulations will be in operation.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three registered Common Lodging Houses. All the lodging houses are inspected at least once a month. There is no improvement to report on the question of good lodging accommodation for decent female lodgers.

SHOPS' ACT, 1934.

In connection with the above, 50 visits of inspection were paid. 2 notices were served on account of insufficient sanitary accommodation, and 1 for insufficient heating. One application to secure exemption from providing a sanitary convenience was refused, and the owner was requested to conform with the Act.

6 notices to provide proper records in connection with young persons were served.

All the above notices were complied with. In 8 cases it was necessary to take proceedings before the Magistrates for shopkeepers failing to close their shops at the proper hours, and in each case a conviction was recorded.

One shopkeeper was warned regarding the working of assistants on their half holiday.

Prior to the compilation of a proper register, every shop and warehouse in the Borough was supplied with a full list of the requirements of the Shops' Acts.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No notices were served in connection with smoke abatement. Several informal observations were made, but no action was deemed necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Corporation own and maintain a swimming bath which is open for the use of the public during the five months from May to September each year.

The bath falls far short of modern requirements, both as regards accommodation and hygienic principles.

There is no filtration plant, but the water is treated with "Chlorox" and changed twice a week.

Plans for the re-construction of the bath or for an entirely new bath have been under consideration for several years.

There are no privately owned swimming pools in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The furniture and effects of all tenants who are removed from clearance areas to new houses are disinfested by means of Hydrocyanic Acid Gas before removal.

This is done by a Contractor at a cost of £2. 10s. per van load. The vans are the property of the Corporation, and the removal of the furniture and disinfestation is carried out without any charge.

Furniture from 114 houses was treated during the year.

One Council house was found to be infested and the house was stripped of all paper, woodwork of skirtings and door-casings removed and thoroughly disinfested.

The contents of this house had been moved from a house in a clearance area prior to the commencement of Hydrocyanic Acid Gas disinfestation.

Seven houses in private ownership were found to be infested and were treated with proprietary compounds.

SCHOOLS.

All the schools in the Borough have sanitary accommodation of the water-carriage type, and have the public water supply laid on.

All schools were closed during some portion of the Influenza epidemic.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(1)	By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	108
(2)	By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	..	..	88
							—
Total						..	196
							—

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	467
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	858
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations	.. ..	315
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	315
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. ..	83

(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	223
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	132
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	39
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners	22
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	47
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	16
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.. .. .	41
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	13
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	4

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	50
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	53
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	379
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	53
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	350
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

Scheme No. 15, consisting of 114 houses at Glebe Fields, was completed during the year.

Originally it was intended that 89 of these houses should be used for slum clearance purposes, and the balance of 25 for re-housing from overcrowded houses; with the consent of the Ministry, all the houses were used for re-housing from unfit houses, this being considered the more urgent of the two evils.

The re-housing was from houses of the following types:—

From Clearance Area	7
From houses where Demolition Orders were in force	53
From houses where Closing Orders were in force	9
From houses where Undertakings were in force	45
	—
Total ..	114
	—

Demolition in the Chapel Lane Clearance Area was continued during the year, and there are now only two houses to be demolished in this Area.

Demolition of the Kirkland No. 1 Area was completed, and the site has been re-developed as a garage.

The Kirkland No. 2 Clearance Area (Peppercorn Lane) was confirmed by the Ministry, and the 10 houses have been demolished and the site cleared.

Plans were approved for the re-development of the Stricklandgate No. 2 Area, and demolition of the houses was commenced.

There are still 5 houses standing in the Highgate No. 1 Clearance Area, and the re-development of this area is being delayed owing to arbitration upon one portion of the area which is to be acquired compulsorily.

With regard to the 5 years' Slum Clearance programme submitted in 1933, to be completed at September, 1938, the position is as follows:—

In the original scheme it was estimated that 380 houses would be demolished within the 5 years, but at the beginning of this year such good progress had been made that a supplementary scheme including another 183 houses was submitted, making a total of 563 in all.

At the end of December, 1937, the actual work completed was:—

Houses in Clearance Areas demolished	127
„ excluded from Clearance Areas but subsequently closed	3
„ unconditionally excluded	1
„ demolished under individual Demolition Orders	102
„ closed by Closing Orders or upon Undertakings	155
„ made fit	28
	—
Total ..	416
	—

In addition to the 416 houses dealt with there are a further 49 against which Demolition Orders are in force, and which are awaiting demolition.

An area in White Lion Yard and Entry Lane was represented as a Clearance Area during the year, and it was decided to make a Compulsory Purchase Order for the purchase of the land comprised in the site, but owing to an informality, this will have to be re-declared during the coming year.

The Ministry has consented to the purchase of approximately 26 acres of land near Saw Mill Lane for the purposes of housing, and has indicated the lines upon which they consider the scheme should be laid

out. Instructions have been given to the Borough Surveyor to prepare a scheme for 200 houses in this site.

The Ministry has also approved the scheme for the erection of 40 one-bedroom flats at Chapel Lane, and tenders are being obtained.

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 101 applications for "permitted numbers" were received, relating to 560 houses.

141 Certificates relating to 788 houses were issued.

555 houses were measured during the year, and for this purpose 784 visits were made.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

There are upon the Register:—

Cowkeepers within the Borough..	..	..	22
Retailers who are also producers	..	..	31
„ purchase milk	..	..	53
Wholesalers	..	..	28

The Health Committee (in conjunction with the Public Health Committee of the Westmorland County Council) has again continued the taking of samples. These are taken systematically at frequent intervals, and are examined for general cleanliness, the absence or presence of Coliform Organisms and biologically for the presence of Tubercle Bacillus. All the samples are examined at the Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

121 samples were taken from dealers who deliver milk in Kendal, and in two cases tubercle infected milk was discovered. In each case the farms in question were visited by the County Veterinary Officer and the offending cow was removed from the herd and slaughtered.

Since January, 1937, the method of examining the milk has been altered. In order that milk may comply with the Regulations it must not contain any coliform organisms in more than 1 tube out of three, nor discolour a methylene blue test until $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours have lapsed during the winter months or $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours during the summer months.

Details of the analyses of the 121 milks are as follows:—

1. GOOD.

Samples complying with both tests 23 or 19%

2 FAIRLY GOOD.

Samples partially complying, free from coliform organisms but not passing Methylene Blue

Test 12 or 9.91%

3. MODERATE.

Samples which had coliform organisms in 1 tube (as allowed) but not passing Methylene

Blue Test 3 or 2.64%

MODERATE.

Samples which had coliform organisms in more than 1 tube but which satisfied Methylene

Blue Test 9 or 7.46%

4. BAD.

Samples which were definitely bad, i.e. complying with neither test

74 or 61%

Coliform Organisms were:—

Entirely absent	..	..	..	..	..	31
Present in 1 tube	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ 2 tubes	..	..	..	..	..	10
„ 3 „	..	..	..	..	..	73

—
121
—

Methylene Blue Test:—

Satisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	32
Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	..	89

—
121
—

The results were disappointing. Of the 121 samples, 48 were from Kendal farms, the remaining 73 being from farms outside the Borough.

The following is an analysis of the 48 Kendal samples:—15 satisfactory, 4 fairly good, 2 moderate, and 27 bad. 17 samples were free from coliform organisms and 3 had coliform organisms in 1 tube; whilst 4 had them in 2 tubes and 24 in all 3 tubes. Only 16 out of 48 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

Visits were paid to the farms in the Borough and special attention was given to farms which were giving bad results. By the end of the year it was pleasing to note that better samples were being produced

The following notices were issued:—

Limewashing	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dirty condition of milkers' clothing	..	..				2
„ milk stools	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ cattle	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ premises	..	..	..	..	..	4
						—
Total						14

On two farms, owners have carried out alterations (1) in paving and drainage of premises (2) in better ventilation; these repairs did not produce ideal conditions but definitely were improvements.

One farmer erected a separate dairy, one installed a milking machine, whilst two farmers installed sterilizing apparatus for the cleansing of bottles, churns and cans.

This latter provision is particularly pleasing to report because it is an essential factor in the production of clean milk. Unless milk utensils are properly cleansed it is quite possible for clean milk to be contaminated by placing it in improperly cleansed cans or churns.

As stressed in last year's report, the legal onus of improving premises for milk production lies with the occupier, and this is a sore point with the farmer.

Farmers, however, are beginning to realise that the question of clean milk is of some importance, and the majority in the Borough are making an effort to produce milk which will comply with the regulations.

As a result of such disappointing samples the Health Committee approved the following circular, and it was delivered to every house in the Borough:—

MILK.

Milk produced under dirty conditions cannot be cleaned afterwards; visible dirt may be removed by straining but not that which is in solution.

Milk containing disease germs can only be made safe by some process of heating.

Pasteurized milk is milk which has been heated at a fixed temperature for half an hour.

Sterilized milk is that which has been raised to boiling point.

If milk be sterilized, all germs are destroyed, but the taste and some of the physical and chemical qualities are changed. If milk be pasteurized, active germs are destroyed but not the spores from which they take origin and the taste and physical and chemical qualities are not altered to any marked degree. Sterilized milk is perfectly safe to drink and that which is pasteurized is reasonably so.

In order to secure clean milk free from the germs which produce tuberculosis certain standards have been laid down, viz.:—

1. *Tuberculin Tested milk* obtained from cows which have passed a veterinary examination and a tuberculin test.
2. *Accredited milk* produced from cows which have passed a veterinary examination.
3. *Pasteurized milk* which may be either of the above or Ordinary milk which has undergone pasteurization.

Standards of cleanliness are also insisted upon in all three classes.

The first of these is the safest of all raw milks but the third is safer than the other two but depends for its safety on heating to which some people object.

Accredited milk is sold at the same price as *Ordinary* milk, which latter is often very dirty.

The fact that milk is sold in bottles does not guarantee any protection whatever from germs or dirt.

If using *Ordinary* milk, it is safest to boil it.

Any further information may be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health or at the Office of the Sanitary Inspector.

In December a local firm commenced the sale of pasteurized milk; this is prepared outside the Borough.

During the year all milk vendors were warned by letter that the bottling of milk in the street was not allowed.

No contraventions have been discovered.

There is only one farmer in the Borough producing “Accredited” milk, but numerous producers outside do so for sale locally. It came to the notice of the department that the regulations with regard to the sale of “Accredited” milk were not being complied with, inasmuch that

it was being sold loose. In order to comply with the law it should only be sold to the consumer in bottles, properly labelled and tightly closed and capped in an approved manner.

Every dealer was warned by letter and the result was that very few purveyors continued to sell the milk as "Accredited"—it was simply sold loose in the same way as ordinary milk, but not as "*Accredited.*"

Three milk vendors were prosecuted as a result of having no name and address on their vehicles. All were convicted, two were fined 5/- each, whilst the third was fined 20/- (second offence). Written warnings had been given previously to every milk vendor.

Two persons were found to be carrying on the trade of milk purveyor without having previously obtained the consent of the Local Authority. In each case a warning was given and the Council approved the Health Committee's resolution that any further offender should be prosecuted.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Observations were made during the year on the amount of congestion arising at the Public Slaughterhouse on Mondays. It is worthy of note that there has been improvement, as butchers and assistants have made more attempts to get their cattle and sheep slaughtered earlier in the day, instead of confining it to the afternoon.

There appears to be considerable delay in transporting cattle from the Auction Mart to the Slaughterhouse, and this is said to be on account of grading the various beasts. The Auction Mart has been asked to assist by expediting the grading and there has since been a slight improvement.

Congestion is caused by the number of persons who frequent the slaughterhouse, for most butchers slaughter individually and in some cases with one assistant.

It is a pity that the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, did not make it compulsory for the Local Authorities to provide slaughtermen; in towns where the Authority has adopted this method the results have proved very successful.

There are no private slaughterhouses within the Borough.

The following is a return of the number of animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse during the past three years:—

Year.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.	Total.
1935	.. 1,258	9,211	2,034	87	12,590
1936	.. 1,258	9,314	2,461	76	13,109
1937	.. 1,210	7,315	2,318	74	10,917

626 cases of Tuberculosis were found (102 bovines and 524 pigs).

Of the 102 bovines affected 63 were cows, 38 heifers and 1 bullock.

The number of animals affected was as follows:—

Pigs: 524 out of 2,318. Out of this total the intestines alone were affected in 202 cases; 105 diseased heads and 149 heads and intestines were also found. This further demonstrates what was pointed out in last year's report, viz.:—that the principal factors in the production of the disease are ingestion and digestion. The total percentage of pigs affected with Tuberculosis was 22.1 per cent.

As regards cattle the percentages were:—

- Out of 549 cows there were 63 cases or 11.4%.
- „ 526 heifers there were 38 cases or 7.22%.
- „ 127 bullocks there was 1 case or .78%.
- „ 8 bulls there were no cases.
- „ 1,210 animals there were 102 cases or 8.42%.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Portion Destroyed.	Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Pigs	TOTAL
Total carcase and viscera ..	—	8	7	—	11	26
Complete viscera	—	10	4	—	—	14
Head only	—	25	19	1	105	150
Head and lungs	—	6	1	—	—	7
Head, lungs and intestines ..	—	3	3	—	—	6
Head, lungs and liver	—	1	—	—	8	9
Head and intestines	—	—	1	—	149	150
Intestines only	—	1	2	—	202	205
Lungs, liver and intestines ..	—	1	—	—	13	14
Lungs and intestines	—	3	—	—	—	3
Lungs, heart and diaphragm ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lungs and diaphragm	—	2	—	—	—	2
Lungs and udder	—	1	—	—	—	1
Udder	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lungs and liver	—	—	1	—	2	3
Head, pluck and intestines ..	—	—	—	—	34	34
TOTALS ..	—	63	38	1	524	626
Total number of cattle and pigs killed	8	549	526	127	2318	3528

The following meat was also condemned at the Public Slaughter-house:—

Sheeps' livers (distomatosis)	51
Sheep's liver (congestion)	1
Hind leg of sheep (injury)	1
Carcases of sheep (injuries)	2
Carcase of sheep (septic pneumonia)	1
Carcases of sheep (suffocation)	2
Carcase of sheep (abscesses)	1
Sheep's pluck (inflammation)	1
Head and pluck of sheep (inflammation)	1
Forequarter of sheep (abscesses)	1
Kidneys of calf (necrosis)	2
Carcase of calf (emaciation)	1
Beasts' livers (distomatosis)	118
Beasts' livers (angioma)	6
Beast's liver (fatty infiltration)	1
Carcase of pig (uræmia)	1
Pig's stomach and intestines (inflammation)	1
Pigs' plucks (parasites)	12
Pigs' plucks (tenuicollis cysts)	3
Pig's pluck (inflammation)	1
Pig's hind leg (injury)	1
Pig's pluck and intestines (inflammation)	1
Pig's intestines and kidneys (inflammation)	1
Carcases of pigs (emergency slaughter)	2
Pig's liver (congestion)	1
Pigs' livers (parasites)	2
Pigs' plucks (fatty infiltration)	3
Pig's liver (decomposition)	1
Pig's loin and leg (injury)	1
Pigs' plucks (abscesses)	1
Hind and forequarter of pig (injury)	1
Heart of heifer (pericarditis)	1
Heifers' head and tongues (actinomycosis)	6
Carcase of heifer (emergency slaughter)	1
Hindquarters of heifers (injuries)	2
Diaphragm and liver of heifer (abscesses)	1
Heifer's head and tongue (abscesses)	1
Cows' udders (mastitis)	7
Cow's head and tongue (actinomycosis)	1
Carcase of cow (enteritis)	1

Cow's head and tongue (abscesses)	I
Hindquarter of cow (injury)	I
Lungs, stomach and intestines of cow (injury)	I

The following food was condemned in shops or other premises:—

40 lbs. beef (decomposition).
 Carcase of pig (emergency slaughter).
 „ „ (decomposition).
 6 lb. tin cooked beef (decomposition).
 10 lb. tin ham (decomposition).
 $\frac{1}{2}$ -stone fish (decomposition).

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	661	549	74	7315	2318
Number inspected ..	661	549	74	7315	2318
All diseases except Tuberculosis. All carcasses condemned	I	I	I	6	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	76 (1)	71 (2)	I	56	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11.7%	13.1%	2.7%	.84%	1.4%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	7	8	—	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	55	—	—	513 (3)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.9%	11.4%	—	—	22.1%

NOTES:—

1. Included in this figure are 55 livers affected with distomatosis.
2. „ „ 65 „ „
3. Of this total 202 were intestines only.

ADULTERATION, ETC., AND CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C., of Liverpool.

91 samples of food were taken for analysis as detailed below (68 formal and 23 informal).

Article.	No. of sample.	Result.	Remarks.
Milk ..	60	Genuine	
Milk ..	I	2.82% Milk Fat 9.25% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 6% of its milk fat. Vendor warned. Further samples proved satisfactory.
Milk ..	I	2.65% Milk Fat 9.20% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 11% of its milk fat. Vendor warned. Further samples proved satisfactory.
Milk ..	I	2.87% Milk Fat 9.13% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 5% of its milk fat. Vendor warned. Further samples proved satisfactory.
Milk ..	I	2.32% Milk Fat 9.48% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 22% of its milk fat. Vendor warned. Further samples proved satisfactory.
Milk ..	I	2.35% Milk Fat 8.91% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 16% of its milk fat. Check sample taken at farm proved satisfactory. Farmer tendered an explanation of the probable cause of the deficiency and this was accepted in view of his previous good record.
Milk ..	I	9.90% Milk Fat 7.30% Non-Fatty Solids	Abnormal quantities of milk fat due to carelessness in not adequately stirring the milk. Vendor warned, but see following sample.
Milk ..	I	9.30% Milk Fat 7.80% Non-Fatty Solids	
Milk ..	I	2.35% Milk Fat 8.91% Non-Fatty Solids	
Cream ..	2	Genuine	Milk deprived of 21% of its milk fat. Legal proceedings taken and vendor fined 10/-.
Tinned Cream ..	I	"	
Tea ..	I	"	
Empire Butter ..	4	"	

Article.	No. of sample.	Result.	Remarks.
Farm		Genuine	
Butter ..	I	„	
Sausages ..	II	„	
Sausages ..	I	„	Contained preservative which was correctly declared, and in accordance with Regulations.
Coffee ..	I	„	
Margarine .	I	„	
	—		
	91		

In the milks the highest fat content was 9.9 per cent. and the highest non-fatty solids content was 9.5 per cent.

The average percentage of milk fat and non-fatty solids in all milks (genuine and non-genuine) was 3.99 per cent. and 8.94 per cent. respectively.

It is necessary to exercise care in the proper stirring of milk. A plunger (with a perforated disc) is the best device to use for this purpose.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912.

	No. of samples examined for presence of preservatives.	No. of samples which contained preservative.
Milk ..	68	.. Nil.
Cream ..	3	.. Nil.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease through the Women's Institutes and through health talks at the schools by the School Medical Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Disease has been very slight.

The increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever in the previous year may account for some of the potential sphere of infectivity being contracted.

There were 11 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria notified during the year, and in one case of each of these diseases the infection was contracted outside the Area but developed within it.

Erysipelas was registered to the number of 8, an increase on the previous year.

Of Puerperal cases there were two of Fever and two of Pyrexia, and all occurred in women admitted into the County Hospital for confinement, but the intervals between the incidences was such as to preclude any common factor.

Of nervous diseases there were two cases, one each of Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Polio-encephalitis, the former, an imported case, died, and the latter was admitted to the Ethel Hedley Hospital for treatment.

The only fatal case occurring amongst the notified diseases was that of Encephalitis Lethargica.

A disease which up to the present has never yet been locally notified made its appearance during the year; this was Relapsing Fever due to *B. Abortus*. Two such cases occurred, the diagnosis being confirmed bacteriologically: careful enquiry and investigation failed to detect any source from which this had been contracted.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

Two families suffering from Scabies were admitted to Hospital.

Diphtheria antitoxin has been promptly utilised, and this is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act; also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes. The use of this serum in all suspicious cases without waiting for a bacteriological result, is an increasing practice and one that is very welcome as early administration is the secret of good results.

No application has been made for artificial immunizations against Diphtheria.

The notification of Pneumonia under the Regulations of 19th of October, 1927, has not been of any service; of the two cases notified, both recovered, whilst there were 13 deaths which were registered as arising from this cause, none of which had been notified; the general medical opinion seems to be that from a Public Health point of view there does not appear to be any advantage to be gained from notification. There seems to be scope here for effective economy with no detriment to Public Health.

It has not been found necessary to shorten the period of detention in Hospital for any case admitted and there were no return cases.

Very slowly does the scheme for the satisfactory provision of isolation accommodation materialise and the Kendal Hospital continues to be responsible for the admission and nursing of infectious cases from the whole County, except for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in the North and Scarlet Fever in Windermere. The admission of Puerperal cases into the Westmorland County Hospital has now ceased, and such cases are accommodated at Carlisle for the North and at Lancaster for the South of the County.

No use has been made of Schick or Dick tests.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

There was a widespread epidemic of Influenza during the Spring, but fortunately with little fatality.

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officers, and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

Premises and articles exposed to infection are disinfected by formaldehyde free of charge; 70 rooms have been dealt with during the year; disinfectants are also distributed free to houses in which a tuberculous patient resides.

The Public Assistance Committee's Institution has kindly provided facilities for steam disinfestation for any articles requiring the same, as the steam disinfector at the Kendal Isolation Hospital is not safe for use, and the provision of a new one is postponed pending the decision of the County Council as to the future hospital establishment.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium when so required.

No action has been necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to the prevention or treatment of blindness.

LABORATORY REPORTS.

The following Laboratory Examinations were done at the Combined Sanitary Districts Laboratory at Kendal:—

118	Diphtheria	
2	Agglutination	Typhoid and Paratyphoid
—	Organisms	
10	Tubercle (Sputum)	
1	Organisms	
7	Bacilluria	
24	Water (B. Coli)	
1	Count	Milk
1	B. Coli	
12	Gonorrhea	
176	Total	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.											Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	
Scarlet Fever ..	11	—	—	—	1	1	6	2	—	1	—	—	11	—
Diphtheria ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	8	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
Relapsing Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total ..	31	—	—	1	2	1	8	3	1	7	3	4	22	1

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE BY WARDS.

DISEASE.	Castle.	Far Cross.	Fell.	Highgate.	Nether.	Strickland.	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever	1	1	—	2	4	3	11
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas	1	1	1	2	2	1	8
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Fever ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Relapsing Fever ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Polioencephalitis .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	4	4	8	5	6	4	31

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	5	—	—	2	2	—	—
35	2	—	—	—	4	2	—	—
45	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
55	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	1
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	10	—	2	8	7	—	2

There has been an increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, viz.: 21 as against 15; and 1 less non-pulmonary, viz.: 2 as against 3.

Of the pulmonary cases 6 had contracted the disease outside the Area but came to live within it at a later date.

Of these, 4 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary died during the year.

One person who was unemployed suffered from this disease with which he had been infected outside the Area—all other cases were in employment or in suitable houses.

Death occurred in one person who had not been previously notified as suffering from Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease is under the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

					Inspections.	Notices.	
Factories ..	..	..	..	..	59	..	2
Workshops	..	..	..	..	146	..	6
Workplaces	..	..	..	..	61	..	3
					—		—
					266	..	11
					—	..	—
					Defects Found.	Remedied.	
Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or							
defective	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Other nuisances	..	..	..	..	8	..	8
					—		—
					11	..	11
					—		—

